Acquisition of agricultural and waste lands for SEZs

2423. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertile agricultural land has been acquired, alongwith the waste land, for setting up of Special Economic Zones in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss of production of foodgrains and cereals due to change of land use; and

(d) how it is proposed to make good of loss in production of foodgrains and cereals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) In the 234 valid formal approvals granted for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) till date, the extent of land involved is 33,807 hectares of which approximately 17,800 hectares of land was already in the ownership/possession of State Industrial Development Corporations. The rest of the lands were those which were already in the possession of the developers. This extent of land would not hamper the agricultural production in the country considering the fact that total land under cultivation in the country is over 100 million hectares.

Production and export of marine food

2424. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of export of marine food has declined during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production and export of marine food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doesn't arise.

(c) In order to increase the production and export of marine products from the country, Government is taking a number of steps, which include the schemes for extending financial assistance for upgrading processing facilities, expansion of aquaculture, imparting of training to aquaculture farmers, assistance for production of value-added products and marketing support.

Reservation in the private sector

2425. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any Act, to provide reservations in the private sector; and

(b) if not, the details as to how Government are going to meet the share of lost jobs of SCs and STs in Government services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government is sensitive to the issue of affirmative action including reservation in the private sector. A Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted in September 2004 to initiate a dialogue with all stakeholders to see how best the private sector can fulfill the aspirations of youth particularly those belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST). In order to carry forward the process of facilitating the participation of SCs and STs in private sector jobs further, a Coordination Committee was constituted by the Prime Minister's Office in October 2006 to ensure time-bound examination of the suggestions received from various stake holders & to identify the concrete steps arising from these and their mode of implementation.

Expansion of Indo-Russian bilateral business

2426. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: